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What is claimed is:CLAIMS

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1. Isocyanate composition which is at least partially masked, characterized in that it comprises at least one non-carbon-based carboxylic function and is masked with at least one masking agent.
2. Composition according to Claim 1, characterized in that said carboxylic function is grafted onto the composition by reaction of a precursor of said composition, of an agent bearing a carboxylic function and of a function which reacts with a free isocyanate function.
3. Composition according to Claim 2, characterized in that said agent bearing a carboxylic function and a function which reacts with a free isocyanate function is a masking agent bearing a carboxylic function.
4. Composition according to Claims 1 to 3, characterized in that said composition is a composition masked with at least two masking agents, at least one of which contains a non-carbon-based carboxylic function.
5. Composition according to Claims 1 to 4, characterized in that the ratio (in equivalents) between the carboxylic functions, on the one hand, and

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the isocyanate functions (which are masked, free and which have reacted with any agent bearing carboxylic functions), on the other hand, is at least equal to 5%, advantageously 10%, preferably 20%.

5           6.   Composition according to Claims 1 to 5, characterized in that the ratio (in equivalents) between the carboxylic functions, on the one hand, and the isocyanate functions (which are masked, free and which have reacted with any agent bearing carboxylic  
10 functions), on the other hand, is not more than about 9/10, advantageously about 4/5, preferably 2/3, more preferably one third.

7.   Composition according to Claims 1 to 6, characterized in that when the carboxylic functions are  
15 borne by agents which are not released under the firing conditions, in order to conserve the crosslinking power, it is desirable for the amount of acid borne by agents which is not released to be not more than 1/2, advantageously 1/3 of the total amount of the  
20 isocyanate functions (which are free, masked and linked to an unreleaseable masking agent).

8.   Composition according to Claims 1 to 7, characterized in that said non-carbon-based carboxylic function is chosen from acids and salts thereof.

25           9.   Composition according to Claims 1 to 8,

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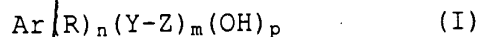
characterized in that said non-carbon-based carboxylic function is an acid function (-COOH).

10. Composition according to Claims 1 to 9, characterized in that said masking agent containing a carboxylic function represents, in equivalents, at least 10% of all of the masking agents.

11. Composition according to Claims 1 to 10, characterized in that said masking agent containing a carboxylic function represents, in equivalents, at least 20% of all of the masking agents.

12. Composition according to Claims 1 to 11, characterized in that said masking agent containing a carboxylic function contains, per masking agent, not more than 4, advantageously 2, freely rotating methyl or methylene groups.

13. Composition according to Claims 1 to 12, characterized in that said masking agent containing a carboxylic function corresponds to the formula:



in which Ar is an aromatic residue to which are grafted n substituents R, m polar functions Z chosen from the carboxylic acid function and salts thereof, and p hydroxyl functions; the values of n, m and p are such that the sum  $n + m + p$  is not more than the number of substitutable members, advantageously p is not more

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14. Composition according to Claims 1 to 13,  
characterized in that said carboxylic function is  
directly linked to an aromatic ring.

16. Composition according to Claims 1 to 15,  
10 characterized in that the masking agent not bearing a  
carboxylic function is chosen from oximes, lactams,  
pyrazoles and triazoles.

18. Composition according to Claim 17,  
characterized in that said masked aliphatic function is  
20 connected to the skeleton via an  $sp^3$ -type carbon  
advantageously bearing a hydrogen atom, preferably two.

20. Composition according to Claims 1 to 19,

characterized in that said isocyanate composition is obtained from an at least partial masking of a mixture obtained by oligomerization or oligocondensation starting with several monomers, at least one of which contains at least one, advantageously two, aliphatic function(s) which is(are) neither secondary nor tertiary nor neopentyl.

21. Composition according to Claim 20, characterized in that the unit(s) obtained from monomer(s) which contain(s) at least one, advantageously two, aliphatic function(s) which is(are) neither secondary nor tertiary nor neopentyl bear(s) at least 1/3, advantageously 1/2 and preferably 2/3, masked isocyanate functions.

22. Composition according to Claims 1 to 21, characterized in that said isocyanate composition is obtained from an at least partial masking of a mixture obtained by oligomerization or oligocondensation starting with several monomers, at least one of which contains a polymethylene chain, the unit(s) obtained from monomer(s) which contain(s) at least one polymethylene chain bearing at least 1/3, advantageously 1/2 and preferably 2/3, masked isocyanate functions.

23. Composition according to Claims 1 to 22,

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characterized in that the masking agent not bearing a carboxylic function is chosen from triazoles.

24. Composition according to Claims 1 to 23, characterized in that it also comprises an organic  
5 base, advantageously a tertiary amine.

25. Use, in a powder paint formulation, of the composition according to Claims 1 to 24.

26. Coating, characterized in that it can be obtained according to Claim 25.

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